GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5168
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
EFFECT OF ACID RAIN ON HISTORICAL MONUMENTS
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of acid rains in the country due to pollution;

(b) if so, whether some historical monuments like Taj Mahal, Bibi-Ka-Makbra, are turning yellow as result thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a)&(b) As per the data generated by India Meteorological Department no conclusive evidence of significant acid rain has been reported in the Country.

(c) The various steps taken by the Government to control gaseous emissions from major emission sources, to check air pollution, include the following :

A network of 280 ambient air quality monitoring stations have been set up throughout the Country. Regular monitoring of gaseous emissions from sources and monitoring of ambient air quality is undertaken.

Emission and effluent standards have been notified for almost all categories of polluting industries. Ambient air quality standards have also been notified.

Environmental auditing in the form of Environmental statement has been made mandatory for all the polluting industries, specifying reduction in energy consumption so as to achieve greater energy efficiency.

For control of pollution from automobiles, stricter emission standards and fuel quality standards have been notified. Use of unleaded petrol, low sulphur diesel and petrol and use of cleaner fuels have been introduced.

Thrust has been given on use of clean coal technologies in Thermal Power Plants and other industries.

An Authority, namely, the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) Pollution (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Authority has been constituted by the Ministry for monitoring the implementation of various projects undertaken under Taj Protection Mission Scheme.